

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A flange cover with trim lip for engaging a flange having a terminal edge and a first and a second pair of opposed side[[s]], the flange cover comprising a generally concave body having consisting essentially of a closed end, a flange engaging leg and a trim lip, the flange engaging leg extending from the closed end for being affixed to the first side of the flange, and the trim lip extending from the closed end to be spaced from the second side of the flange along an entire length of the trim lip to locate the flange between the trim lip and the flange engaging leg, the body precluding operable contact with the second side of the flange.
2. (Original) The flange cover with trim lip of Claim 1, wherein the body is formed of a polymeric material.
3. (Original) The flange cover with trim lip of Claim 1, wherein the body is free of a carrier.
4. (Original) The flange cover with trim lip of Claim 1, wherein the body is free of structural metal.
5. (Original) The flange cover with trim lip of Claim 1, further comprising an adhesive for bonding an inside surface of the flange engaging leg to the first side of the flange.
6. (Original) The flange cover with trim lip of Claim 1, further comprising a sealing member extending from an outside surface of the flange engaging leg.
7. (Original) The flange cover with trim lip of Claim 1, further comprising a sealing bulb extending from an outside surface of the flange engaging leg.
8. (Original) The flange cover with trim lip of Claim 1, wherein the trim lip has a varying cross section along a length of the trim lip.
9. (Original) The flange cover with trim lip of Claim 1, wherein the trim lip defines a hollow section within a cross section of the trim lip.
10. (Currently amended) A flange cover for engaging a flange having a first side and a second side, the flange cover comprising:
 - (a) a flange engaging portion consisting essentially of a flange engaging leg for engaging the first side of the flange; and

(b) a trim lip connected to the flange engaging portion [[leg]], the trim lip having a free end, the trim lip spaced from the second side of the flange along a length of the trim lip to dispose a portion of the flange intermediate the trim lip and the flange engaging portion,

the flange engaging portion and the trim lip selected to preclude operable contact with the second side of the flange.

11. (Original) The flange cover of Claim 10, wherein the flange engaging portion is formed of a polymeric material.

12. (Original) The flange cover of Claim 10, wherein the flange engaging portion is free of a carrier.

13. (Original) The flange cover of Claim 10, wherein the flange engaging portion is free of structural metal.

14. (Original) The flange cover of Claim 10, further comprising an adhesive for bonding an inside surface of the flange engaging leg to the first side of the flange.

15. (Original) The flange cover of Claim 10, further comprising a sealing member extending from an outside surface of the flange engaging leg.

16. (Original) The flange cover of Claim 10, further comprising a sealing bulb extending from an outside surface of the flange engaging leg.

17. (Original) The flange cover of Claim 10, wherein the trim lip has a varying cross section along a length of the trim lip.

18. (Original) The flange cover of Claim 10, wherein the trim lip defines a hollow section within a cross section of the trim lip.

19. (Currently amended) A flange cover for engaging a flange having a first side, a terminal edge and a second side, the flange cover comprising

(a) a single flange engaging leg adapted to engage only the first side of the flange; and

(b) a trim lip connected to the single flange engaging leg, the trim lip configured to overlie the terminal edge and be spaced from the second side of the flange to dispose a portion of the flange intermediate the trim lip and preclude operable contact of the flange cover and the second side of the flange.

20. (Original) The flange cover of Claim 19, wherein the flange engaging leg is formed of a polymeric material.
21. (Original) The flange cover of Claim 19, wherein the flange engaging leg is free of a carrier.
22. (Original) The flange cover of Claim 19, wherein the flange engaging leg is free of structural metal.
23. (Original) The flange cover of Claim 19, further comprising an adhesive for bonding an inside surface of the flange engaging leg to the first side of the flange.
24. (Original) The flange cover of Claim 19, further comprising a sealing member extending from an outside surface of the flange engaging leg.
25. (Original) The flange cover of Claim 19, further comprising a sealing bulb extending from an outside surface of the flange engaging leg.
26. (Original) The flange cover of Claim 19, wherein the trim lip has a varying cross section along a length of the trim lip.
27. (Original) The flange cover of Claim 19, wherein the trim lip defines a hollow section within a cross section of the trim lip.
28. (Currently amended) A flange cover for operable location relative to a vehicle flange and a spaced interior trim piece separate from the flange cover, the vehicle flange having a first side and a second side, the flange cover comprising:
 - (a) a flange cover body configured to engage only a single side of the flange and preclude contact with the second side of the flange; and
 - (b) a trim lip extending from the flange cover body and locating to locate a portion of the interior trim piece intermediate the trim lip and the second side of the flange.
29. (Original) The flange cover of Claim 28, wherein the trim lip is sized to occlude the gap.
30. (Original) The flange cover of Claim 28, further comprising one of a reinforcing member and an elongation reducing member in the flange cover body.
31. (Original) The flange cover of Claim 28, wherein the flange cover body is free of structural metal.

32. (Withdrawn) A method of installing a flange cover on a vehicle having a flange with a first side, a terminal edge and a second side, the method comprising engaging a flange engaging leg of the flange cover with the first side of the flange to overlie the terminal edge with a portion of the flange cover, and space a trim lip from the second side of the flange, the flange cover configured to preclude contact with the second side of the flange.

33. (Withdrawn) The method Claim 32, further comprising precluding contact between the trim lip and the second side of the flange.

34. (Withdrawn) The method Claim 32, further comprising forming the flange cover to be free of structural metal.

35. (Withdrawn) The method Claim 32, further comprising connecting a sealing member to the flange cover.

36. (Withdrawn) The method Claim 32, further comprising robotically engaging the flange cover with the flange.

37. (Withdrawn) The method Claim 32, further comprising removing the flange cover from a reel prior to engaging the flange cover with the flange.

38. (Withdrawn) A method of installing a flange cover on a vehicle having a flange with a first side, a terminal edge and a second side, the method comprising:

(a) removing a length of the flange cover from a reel; and

(b) engaging at least a portion of the length of the flange cover with the first side of the flange to overlie the terminal edge with a portion of the flange cover, and space a trim lip from the second side of the flange, the flange cover configured to preclude contact with the second side of the flange.

39. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 38, further comprising engaging a single flange engaging leg with the flange to engage the flange cover with the flange.

40. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 38, further comprising robotically removing the length of flange cover from the reel.

41. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 38, further comprising robotically engaging the length of flange cover with the flange.

42. (Withdrawn) A method of installing a flange cover and a trim lip on a vehicle flange, the method comprising:

(a) installing an interior trim piece on the vehicle to be spaced from the flange and define a gap therebetween; and

(b) engaging the flange cover with only a single side of the flange to locate the trim lip at least partially within the gap.

43. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 42, further comprising engaging the flange cover with only a single side of the flange to locate a portion of the interior trim piece intermediate a second side of the flange and the trim lip.

44. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 42, further comprising engaging the flange cover with only a single side of the flange to overlie a portion of the interior trim piece with the trim lip.